

PROPOSED LANDING-PIER AT HYTHE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

Sir,—The accompanying design was thought worthy of the award offered to architects and civil engineers by the "Hythe Pier Committee" in October, 1843 (though want of funds occasioned it to be laid aside, and a more economical design to be adopted), and which is proposed to be carried out in the form of a *Head*; under such circumstances we do not hesitate to transmit it to you for insertion in your much-read publication, if space allow. Having been fully occupied ever since, we are only able to lay them before you at the present time; and not wishing to trespass too much on your pages, we shall only give a brief description of the proposed pier.

It will be observed, on referring to the isometrical view, that an Inclined plane is formed at each approach, both from the sea and land; the former is similar to the sea approach of the Ryde pier, devised by Thomas Hellyer, Esq. The latter was designed (as also the former) so as to decrease the expense, which a greater artificial embankment or mound would have caused to be incurred if proposed in our design. The inclined plane is only for burrows, &c.; and for passengers on the other side, the descent is, as may be seen, gained by steps.

The total length of the pier from the gates to the extreme point was designed to be 2,200 feet, divided into twenty-two bays, the distance from centre of pile to centre of pile being 20 feet. The length may appear unnecessarily great, but is not so, it being the wish of the committee, as it is quite desirable that it should be, that at the pier-head there should never be less, at low spring tides, than 4 feet depth of water; and to gain this important advantage, the length before stated is required.

The dimensions of the piles, and the scantlings, &c., of the materials requisite for their construction, we do not here give, as they are marked on the draught forwarded to you.

The isometrical view shows a portion of the pier as finished; and a portion exhibiting the constructive part.

We are, Mr. Editor, your well-wishers,
JOHN ELLIOTT and EDWARD BLAKE.

LIFE IN THE OREGON TERRITORY.

Tick following extracts from the interesting travels of an American, Mr. Farnham, present lively pictures of the Hudson's Bay Company's chief post, and of American squatters:—

"FORT VANCOUVER, OCTOBER, 1839.

"The first day of the winter months came with bright skies over the beautiful valleys of Oregon. The herds of California cattle were lowing on the meadows, and the flocks of sheep from the Downs of England were scampering and bleating around their shepherds on the plain; and the plane of the carpenter, the adze of the cooper, the hammer of the tinsman, and the anvil of the blacksmith within the pickets, were all awake when I arose to breakfast for the last time at Fort Vancouver. The beauty of the day, and the busy hum of life around me, accorded well with the feelings of joy with which I made preparations to return to my family and home. And yet when I met at the table Dr. McLaughlin, Mr. Douglass, and others with whom I had passed many pleasant hours, and from whom I had received many kindnesses, a sense of sorrow mingled strongly with the delight which the occasion naturally inspired. I was to leave Vancouver for the Sandwich Islands, and see them no more. And I confess that it has seldom been my lot in life to have felt so deeply pained at parting with those whom I had known so little time.

"Fort Vancouver is the depot to which are

brought the furs collected west of the Rocky Mountains, and from which they are shipped to England; and also the place at which all the goods for the trade are landed; and from which they are distributed to the various posts of that territory by vessels, batteaux or pack animals, as the various routes permit. It was established by Governor Simpson in 1824, as the great centre of all commercial operations in Oregon; it is situated in a beautiful plain on the north bank of the Columbia, 30 miles from the sea, in latitude 45½ deg. north, and in longitude 122 deg. west; stands 400 yards from the water-side. The noble river before it is 1670 yards wide, and from five to seven fathoms in depth; the whole surrounding country is an uninterrupted forest of pine, cedar and fir, &c., interspersed here and there with small open spots; all overlooked by the vast snow pyramids of the President's Range, 35 miles to the east.

"The fort itself is an oblong square, 250 yards in length, by 150 in breadth, enclosed by pickets 20 feet in height. The area within is divided into two courts, around which are arranged 35 wooden buildings, used as officers' dwellings, lodging apartments for clerks, store-houses for furs, goods, and grain; and as workshops for carpenters, blacksmiths, coopers, tinsmen, wheelwrights, &c. One building, near the rear gate, is occupied as a school-house, and a brick structure as a powder magazine. The wooden buildings are constructed in the following manner: Posts are raised at convenient intervals, with grooves in the facing sides. In these grooves planks are inserted horizontally, and the walls are complete. Rafter raised upon plates, in the usual way, and covered with boards, form the roofs.

"Six hundred yards below the fort, and on the bank of the river, is a village of 53 wooden houses, generally constructed like those within the pickets. In these live the company's servants. Among them is a hospital, in which those of them who become diseased are humanely treated. Back and a little east of the fort is a barn containing a mammoth threshing machine; and near this are a number of long sheds, used for storing grain in the sheaf. And behind the Vancouver farm, stretching up and down the river—3000 acres, fenced into beautiful fields—sprinkled with dairy houses, and herdsman and shepherd's cottages. A busy place is this. The farmer on horseback at break of day, summons 100 half-breeds and Iroquois Indians from their cabins to the fields. Twenty or thirty ploughs tear open the generous soil; the sowers follow with their seed—and pressing on them came a dozen harrows to cover it. And then 30 or 40 acres are planted in a day, till the immense farm is under crop. The season passes on—teeming with daily industry, until the harvest waves on all those fields. And then sickle and hoe glisten in tireless activity to gather in the rich reward of this toil:—the food of 700 people at this post, and of thousands more at the posts on the deserts in the east and north. The saw mill, too, is a scene of constant toil. Thirty or forty Sandwich Islanders are felling the pines and dragging them to the mill: sets of hands are plying two gangs of saws by night and day. Three thousand feet of lumber per day—900,000 feet per annum—constantly being shipped to foreign ports.

"The grain mill is not idle. It must furnish bread stuff for the post, and the Russian market in the north-west. And its deep music is heard daily and nightly throughout half the year.

"But we will enter the fort. The blacksmith is repairing ploughshares, harrow-teeth, chains, and mill-rims; the tinsman is making cups for the Indians, and camp kettles, &c.; the wheelwright is making waggons, and the wood parts of ploughs and harrows; the carpenter is repairing houses and building new ones; the cooper is making barrels for pickling salmon and packing furs; the clerks are posting books and preparing the annual return to the board in London; the salesmen are receiving beaver and desling out goods. But hear the voices of those children from the school-house! They are the half-breed offspring of the gentlemen and servants of the company; educated at the company's expense, preparatory to being apprenticed to trades in Canada. They learn the English language, writing, arithmetic, and geography. The gar-

dener, too, is singing out his honest satisfaction, as he surveys from the northern gate ten acres of apple trees laden with fruit—his bowers of grape vines—his beds of vegetables and dowers. The bell rings for dinner; we will see the 'Hall' and its convivialities.

"The dining hall is a spacious room on the second floor, ceiled with pine above and at the sides. In the south-west corner of it is a large close stove, sending out sufficient caloric to make it comfortable.

"At the end of a table twenty feet in length stands Governor McLaughlin—directing guests and gentlemen from neighbouring posts to their places; and chief traders, traders, the physician, clerks, and the farmer slide respectfully to their places, at distances from the governor corresponding to the dignity of their rank in the service. Thanks are given to God, and all are seated. Roast beef and pork, boiled mutton, baked salmon, boiled ham; beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, and potatoes, and wheaten bread, are tastefully distributed over the table among a dinner set of elegant Queen's ware, burnished with glittering glasses and decanters of various coloured Italian wines. Course after course goes round, and the governor fills to his guests and friends; and each gentleman in turn vies with him in diffusing around the board a most generous allowance of viands, wines, and warm fellow feeling. The cloth and wines are removed together, cigars are lighted, and the evening smoke around the premises, enlivened by a courteous discussion of some mooted point in natural history or politics, closes the ceremonies of the dinner hour at Fort Vancouver.

"AMERICAN SQUATTERS IN OREGON.

"It was dark when I arrived at the level country; and emerging suddenly in sight of a fire, my Indians cried 'Boston! Boston!' and turned the canoe to let me speak to a fellow countryman. He was sitting in the drizzling rain, by a large log fire,—a stalwart, six-foot Kentucky trapper. After long service in the American fur companies, among the Rocky Mountains, he had come down to the Willamette, accompanied by an Indian woman and his child, selected a place to build his home, made an 'improvement,' sold it, and was now commencing another. He entered my canoe, and steered across the river to a Mr. Johnson's. 'I'm sorry I can't keep you,' said he, 'but I reckon you'll sleep better under shingles, than this stormy sky. Johnson will be glad to see you. He's got a good shanty, and something for you to eat.' We ashore crossed the stream, and crossed the cabin of Mr. Johnson. It was a hewn log structure, about twenty feet square, with a mud chimney, hearth, and fire-place. The furniture consisted of one chair, a number of wooden benches, a bedstead covered with flag mats, and several sheet-iron kettles, earthen plates, knives and forks, tin pint cups, an Indian wife, and a brace of brown boys. I passed the night pleasantly with Mr. Johnson; and in the morning rose early to go to the Methodist Episcopal mission, twelve miles above. But the old hunter detained me to breakfast; and afterwards insisted that I should view his premises, while his boys should gather the horses to convey me on my way. And a sight of fenced fields, many acres of wheat and corn, stubble, potatoe fields, and garden vegetables, of one description and a barn well stored with the gathered harvest, compensated me for the delay. Adjoining Mr. Johnson's farm were four others, on all of which there were from fifty to a hundred acres under cultivation, and substantial log-houses and barns. One of these belonged to Thomas McKay, son of Mr. McKay who figured with Mr. Astor in the doings of the Pacific Fur Company. After surveying these marks of civilization, I found a Dr. Halley waiting with his horses to convey me to his home. We accordingly mounted, bade adieu to the old trapper of Hudson Bay, and other parts of the frozen north, and went to view Mr. McKay's mill. A grist mill in Oregon! We found him working at his dam. Near by lay French burr stones, and some portions of substantial and well-fashioned iron-work. The frame of the mill-house was shingled; and an excellent structure it was. The whole expense of the establishment, when completed, is expected to be 7,000 or 8,000 dollars. McKay's mother is a Cree or Chippeway Indian; and McKay is a